

REMARKS

Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are amended and rewritten as independent claims. Claims 3 and 6-19 are amended herein to correct a minor informality by replacing the word "A" at the beginning of each of these claims with "The". Claims 6, 7, 11-14, 16, 18 and 19 are further amended to change their dependencies to claim 2. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 2-19 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 6-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kawauchi (U.S. Patent 6,440,633).

Claim 1 is canceled herein. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are amended and rewritten as independent claims. Kawauchi does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 2, 4 and 5. Claims 2, 4 and 5 were not included in the rejection. Claims 6-17 and 19 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 2 and are distinguished over the art for at least the same reasons. Thus, the presently claimed invention is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Kawauchi et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4-5 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 are amended herein and rewritten as independent claims including the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 18 depends from claim 2 and therefore is distinguished for at least the same reasons. Thus, the present claims are allowable.

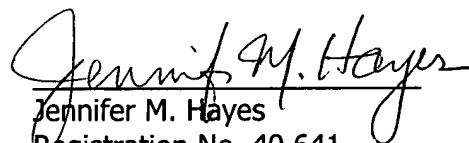
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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